



UNION-SNYDER

**CAA**

Community Action Agency

# Bulletin

H E L P I N G P E O P L E . C H A N G I N G L I V E S .

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## April

### Child Abuse Prevention Month

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives proclaimed April 1983 as the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since then, child abuse and neglect awareness activities have been promoted across the country during April of each year. The Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) within the Children's Bureau coordinates Child Abuse Prevention Month, providing information and releasing updated national statistics about child abuse and neglect each April. In 2003, as part of the 20th anniversary of the original Presidential Proclamation designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, OCAN recast the National Child Abuse Prevention Initiative as a year-long effort. In 2004, OCAN built on a national momentum to shift the focus of child abuse prevention towards a family strengthening message promoting parenting and community support. Today, the Child Abuse Prevention Initiative is an opportunity for communities across the country to keep children safe, provide the support families need to stay together, and raise children and youth to be happy, secure, and stable adults. In the past few years, the focus has shifted toward a more positive message of celebrating individuals, organizations, and communities who have done much to prevent child abuse and neglect. (source: Child Welfare Information Gateway).

Union-Snyder Community Action Agency (CAA) dedicates this issue of the BULLETIN to all those who work to strengthen and support families. From parents to foster parents to adoptive parents to community groups to county, state, and private organizations-the list is endless of those committed to raising healthy, strong families! We celebrate you and your efforts to build families and communities. In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the focus of this issue of the BULLETIN is on strengthening families. Thanks to the organizations that have contributed articles to this special edition of the BULLETIN.

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## Pennsylvania's Children 2007

### Pennsylvania's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup>	12,429,616
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup>	2,816,739
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup>	11.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup>	16.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup>	15.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup>	19.5%

*All statistics are for 2005.*

- In 2004, 4,647 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Pennsylvania, a rate of 1.6 per 1,000 children, and representing a 1.7% increase from 2003. Of these children, 2.6% were neglected, 34.3% were physically abused, and 60.7% were sexually abused. In 2004, 42 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Pennsylvania.
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and food stamp benefits in Pennsylvania was at 81.6% of the federal poverty guideline.
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Pennsylvania was \$745 per month. The wage necessary to afford this apartment was \$14.34 per hour, working a 40-hour week.
- In 2005 Pennsylvania had an estimated monthly average of 72,600 children served by subsidized child care; 63,700 received subsidized child care in 2004, and 60,700 in 2003.
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Pennsylvania, a family of three could make no more than \$32,180, which is equivalent to 56% of the state's median income.
- In 2006, Pennsylvania had 7,353 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.
- In 2006, Head Start served 32,282 Pennsylvania children, a 4.6% increase from 2004.
- In 2002, 828,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Pennsylvania, representing 48.4% of the total number of enrollees.
- In 2005 Pennsylvania had 179,807 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.3% increase from 2004, when 177,415 children were enrolled.
- In 2003, 11,718 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Pennsylvania a ranking of 43 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).
- In 2003, 1,070 infants younger than 1 year died in Pennsylvania, giving the state a ranking of 42 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, 50 the worst).
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15-17 in Pennsylvania was 16.6 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18-19, the rate was 51.6. This reflects a total rate of 30.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15-19.
- Cumulative through 2004, 30,174 adults and adolescents, as well as 352 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Pennsylvania.
- In 2004, an estimated 85,000 children age 12-17, and 544,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Pennsylvania.
- In 2004 32,000 Pennsylvania teens age 16-19 were high school dropouts.
- In 2004, 6% of teens age 16-19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.
- In 2004, approximately 46,000 children age 12-17 in Pennsylvania needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.
- IN 2004, approximately 55,000 children age 12-17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.
- In 2003, 90 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.82 per 100,000 children.
- In 2003, 26 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Pennsylvania, a 13% decrease from 30 in 2002.
- In 2005, 101,608 children younger than 18 were arrested in Pennsylvania, a 2.4% decrease from 104,140 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 5,107 were for violent crimes and 1,689 were for possession of a weapon.

## Emotional Abuse

**“Stupid! You never do anything right!” Words can be painful.**

Constant name calling, put down, humiliation in front of others....These are words that make a child feel worthless. Ugly. Not loved.

Parents may not know how damaging their words can be.  
They may think harsh words will help their children behave,  
but the pain of a parent's mean words can last forever.  
A parent can hurt their children without lifting a hand.

Can you remember a time when someone you loved hurt you with words?  
The sound of those words might last for *years*.

### *Remember*

- √ Say “I love you” often. Give kids hugs. Smile!!!
- √ Praise your kids. “Good Job!”
- √ Tell them why you are proud of them.
- √ Give your child easy jobs she can do for herself. Let her be a winner.
- √ Help make him proud of himself.
- √ Don't tease your child. It's not a game to confuse or frighten a child.
- √ Don't make fun of the way he/she looks.
- √ Stick up for your kids. Don't let others tease or make fun of them.
- √ Let your kids know HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE TO YOU!!! Say you are terrific! I love you! I like you!
- √ Report any teacher or coach who uses humiliation to try to teach children a lesson.

If you are concerned you may be emotionally or verbally abusing your child....try the following quick and easy activity:

Tape a piece of paper unto your refrigerator. Keep a pencil nearby or use a string to tape a pencil near the piece of paper. Several times a day or the week...write down what you say to your child. Take the paper and read it to yourself out loud while looking in a mirror. How did you feel? Did you say kind and supportive statements? OR Were they negative or cruel? How would your friends feel if you said the same things to them?

Being a parent is a HARD job... and the only job that doesn't require an education or a license! Dirty diapers. Noise. Crying. Not enough money. Decisions. Responsibility. Sometimes it seems like too much to handle. Sometimes you just want to run away. But child abuse doesn't have to happen. Child abuse can be prevented; by parents willing to learn why abuse happens, by parents who care. . . .parents like you!

Parenting, the hardest job in the world, and the most important! SUM Child Development, Inc.  
Thanks to SUM Child Development, Inc. for contributing this article.

## **WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A PARENT MISTREAT A CHILD IN PUBLIC**

Adapted from the PA Family Support Alliance Newsletter

Have you ever been at the grocery store and seen a parent treat their child in a way that made you feel uncomfortable? Maybe you have seen a mom or dad slap their child across the face, leave their child locked in a car or speak to their child in a very nasty way. You may even see something that makes you fear for the child's safety.

One of the main reasons for poor parenting is that the parent expects the child to be able to do something that they just are not able to do. A parent may expect a two year old to share with his brother when a two year old's brain does not understand this yet. Other reasons for poor parenting are high levels of stress in the parents' lives and not using discipline methods that work.

You can play an active role in keeping these nasty parenting situations from turning into child abuse. If an adult is losing patience with a child, step in, but keep it positive. Don't try to correct the parent or make them feel bad for what they did- this will just make matters worse. You can help to calm things down for the child and then the parent may see that what they did was not the best way to handle the child.

Start talking with the parent to take the attention away from the child. Here are some ideas:

- "He seems to be testing you"
- "My child sometimes gets upset like that too."
- "Kids can really wear you out sometimes. Is there something I can do to help?"
- "Kids at that age have so much energy- sometimes it's hard to keep up."
- "It looks like your child is having a bad day."

Try to get the child's attention by talking to him:

- "I like your sneakers. Is that Bob the Builder on your shirt?"
- "Is that animal crackers you are eating? I bet they are good."

Look for a chance to praise the parent or the child

- "She has the most beautiful eyes, she looks just like you."
- "How old is your son? He looks like a good helper. I have a little boy that age."

If the child is in danger, offer help. If they are left alone in the grocery cart, stand nearby till the parent comes back. If you think there is a good chance the child will be hurt, contact the store manager for help. If a child is left alone in a car, wait close by for a short time, then call police.

Contributed by Jeanne Trego, Parenting Educator, Union-Snyder CAA

Check out more about the PA Family Support Alliance at:  
[www.pennsylvaniamfamilysupportalliance.org](http://www.pennsylvaniamfamilysupportalliance.org)

## Safe Children and Healthy Families Are a Shared Responsibility

Become one of the **STARS** in your community

**S**upport children and parents in your community.

**T**ake a positive perspective on what parents and families do right.

**A**ddress the issue with community groups.

**R**ecognize that parenting can be challenging.

**S**trengthen parent's coping skills.



Get involved!

For resources and information, visit the Prevention section of the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect information website at:

<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov>

## 4-H ~Community Connections

Where can kids have fun, participate in exciting hands-on activities and make new friends while working with adult volunteers from the community? Any 4-H'er can tell you!

4-H has something for everyone. Boys and girls ages five to eighteen join 4-H to learn about science, engineering, technology, community service, nutrition, exercise from knowledgeable community leaders.

In 4-H clubs, camps, in-school and afterschool programs, kids learn leadership, citizenship and life skills while they participate in experiences that prepare them to be successful adults. Today 4-H touches the lives of more than three hundred kids across Snyder County.

To learn about how to join or volunteer in our community, call Penn State Cooperative Extension in Snyder County at 570-837-4252 or email [wellerky@psu.edu](mailto:wellerky@psu.edu). Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

## Special Kids Network

The Special Kids Network (SKN) is a statewide toll-free helpline. The SKN helpline provides callers with a broad range of referral services for children with special health care needs and their families. The SKN helpline has two components: Information & Referral, and System of care. For more information on SKN go to [www.dsf.health.state.pa.us](http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us).

## **LOVE INC can HELP!**

We can connect you with volunteers from our network of Christian churches, which give their time, and have the skill and heart to get you through your situation.

**We have 5 important ministry teams;**

**Transportation Ministry**

medical–grocery–special circumstances

**Errand Ministry**

medical-grocery-special circumstances

**Companionship Ministry**

connections with loving friends

**Home & Household Repair Ministry**

We evaluate the situation, but..... we don't do roofs

**Yard Work Ministry**

Leaf Raking - Spring Clean-up -Short term mowing

**Special Requests**

All other types of ministry requests will be evaluated on an individual basis by our needs coordinating team.

Our goal is meeting every legitimate manageable need, although Love INC does not provide financial assistance to help resolve the need.

*Currently serving:*

*Union County.-Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, Winfield, White Deer, New Berlin, West Milton, New Columbia & surrounding townships.*

*Snyder County- Selinsgrove, Shamokin Dam, Middleburg, Port Treverton, Hummels Wharf & surrounding townships.*

*Northumberland County- Milton, Watsonstown, Turbotville, Montandon, Northumberland, Sunbury & surrounding townships.*



**Love INC**

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## GIVE A YEAR

## CHANGE THE WORLD

### What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a national service program. Thousands of Americans across the country provide service to improve their communities.

CORE Susquehanna is your local AmeriCorps program.

Who: anyone can serve if they are at least 17 years of age and have a high school diploma, GED or will agree to get their GED.

What: AmeriCorps members serve a “term of service” at a non-profit Site participate in several group projects in your community full time, part time or summer positions.

When: CORE Susquehanna is currently accepting applications for summer positions for 2009 **and** program year 2009-10.

Apply at [www.coresusquehanna.org](http://www.coresusquehanna.org)

Where: CORE Susquehanna members serve at non-profit Partner Sites in Snyder, Union, Northumberland, Montour, Mifflin and Juniata Counties.

### Why: SERVICE TO OTHERS

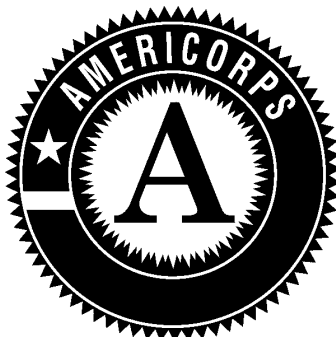
“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Gandhi

Benefits: living stipend while you serve your term of service  
 education award to pay on your college loans or take classes in the future  
 health insurance (full time positions only)  
 a chance to make a difference in your community, while learning new skills  
 and making new connections

Any questions?-call Robyn or Dennis at 570-374-0181

CHANGE THE WORLD

GIVE A YEAR



American Red Cross Blood Drive for  
Union and Snyder Counties

Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110  
lbs and be in good general health.  
Donors must bring personal identification.

**Snyder County Blood Drives:**

April 6 Monday Penn View Bible Institute 1:00-6:00  
April 10 Friday St Thomas Church,MPM 1:00-6:00  
April 13 Monday Beaver Lutheran Ch,BS 1:00-6:00  
April 16 Thursday SU-Degenstein Center 12:00-6pm  
April 27 Mon Witmer's UM Ch, Port Trev. 12:00-6:00  
April 28 Tuesday Sharon Lutheran Ch, Sel 1:00-6:00  
May 4 Mon. Zion Lutheran Ch, Kratzerville 1:30-6:30  
May 18 Mon Grace Covenant Com Ch, Mbg 1:00-6:00

**Union County Blood Drives:**

April 1 Wed. Bucknell University 10:00-4:00  
April 17 Fri. Evangelical Community Hospital 10am-4pm  
April 22 Wed. Faith Lutheran Church, Lewisburg 12 - 6:00  
May 18 Mon. Playworld, Lewisburg 10am-4pm  
May 28 Thurs. Church of God in Christ Mennonite, Miff 1-7pm  
June 17 Wed. First Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg 12-6pm  
June 24 Wed. RiverWoods, Lewisburg 12-5pm

**NOTICE:**

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter or would like to update your information, please call 570-374-0181 ext. 145. Please share this newsletter with a friend or co-worker.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please e-mail Christine Hart at [chart@union-snydercaa.org](mailto:chart@union-snydercaa.org) and I remove your name from the postal mailing list.

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